Lack of Postal facilities in Bustees and Tea Gardens in West Bengal

2012. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact tha,t in the hilly region of West Bengal a large section/ part of the rural areas i.e. bustees and tea garden are still deprived of the postal facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of steps being taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). Government's objective is to provide post offices in all Gram Panchayats fulfilling depart-mental norms, and letter boxes in all villages having a population of 500 and above. Post offices have been provided in all Gram Panchayats of hilly and tea gar. den areas of West Bengal and only 54 villages with a population of 500 and above in these areas have not been provided with letter boxes. Therefore, adequate postal facilities are available in these areas.

Telephones to Freedom Fighters in Bihar

2013. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications from freedom fighters in the waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar;

(b) what are the district -wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide early telephone connection to freedom fighters on out of turn/priority basis;

(d) whether there is any plan to provide telephone connections to them witihin a specified time limit;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons tnerefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS *(SHRI* SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, 239 applications from freedom fighters are in the waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar as on 2-3-1994.

(b) The district-wise details are under:

(i) Ihanbad . . .	4	(ii) Supaul	6
(iii) Muzaffarpur . .	28	(iv) Gaya	21
(v) Jehanabad . .	1	(vi) Darbhanga	5
(vii) Madhubani . .	21	(viii) Samastipur	12
(ix) Khagaria . . .	20	(x) Jamshedpur	1
(xi) Bhojpur . . .	38	(xii) Bhagalpur	29
(xiii) Patna . . .	53		
Total	239		

(c) Freedom fighters are registered for telephone under N-OYT-SWS category which enjoyg the highest priodoty in installation after Tatkal category.

(d) to (f). Pending cases are generally cleared latest at the time of the next expansion of the network.